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RELEASED IN FULL

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	CIAE-00	C-01	DODE-00	DS-00	HA-09
	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OMB-01	PA-02	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00
	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	ASDS-01	/042W	
				-----7A6168 141227Z /38			

P 132229Z NOV 92
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5432
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM

UNCLAS CARACAS 12005

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, ASEC, VZ
SUBJECT: FORMER DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTE
- STABBED

1. ON NOVEMBER 11, THE FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE VENEZUELAN SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTE (IVSS), PEDRO CESAR IZQUIEL, WAS STABBED SEVERAL TIMES, IN FRONT OF THE CLINIC WHERE HE SERVES AS A SURGEON, BY AN INDIVIDUAL WHILE AN ACCOMPLICE POINTED A GUN AT THE BUILDING GUARD. ACCORDING TO IZQUIEL'S SON, HIS FATHER ATTEMPTED TO GIVE HIS WALLET AND CAR KEYS TO HIS ASSAILANT (STREET CRIMES ARE COMMON IN CARACAS AND CITIZENS ARE SENSITIZED

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TO NOT RESISTING ROBBERS), BUT THE ATTACKER WAS INTENT ON PHYSICAL HARM. CONSEQUENTLY, THE SON BELIEVES THE ATTACK ON HIS FATHER WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, PROBABLY AN ACT OF "VENGEANCE."

2. A FEW HOURS AFTER THE ATTACK, THE SO-STYLED "BOLIVARIAN ARMY OF LIBERATION" (FUERZAS BOLIVARIANAS DE LIBERACION -- FBL), REPORTEDLY PHONED THE MEDIA AND CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACTION. THE JUSTICE MINISTRY POLICE (PTJ) IS INVESTIGATING THE CASE BUT HAVE NOT INDICATED WHETHER THEY BELIEVE IT IS CRIMINAL OR

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POLITICAL. THE FBL CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SHOOTING OF THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATION OF WORKERS OF VENEZUELA (CTV) ANTONIO RIOS, AND CLAIMED AT THAT TIME THAT IT WOULD "PUNISH" ALL THE CORRUPT PERSONS IN THE COUNTRY. CESAR IZQUIEL SERVED AS IVSS DIRECTOR DURING THE PRESIDENCY OF JAIME LUSINCHI.

3. A FEW WEEKS AGO A NUMBER OF FORMER SENIOR IVSS OFFICIALS WERE INDICTED ON CHARGES OF "ILLICIT ENRICHMENT" BY THE SUPERIOR COURT CHARGED WITH OVERSIGHT OF PUBLIC PROPERTY ("TRIBUNAL SUPERIOR DE SALVAGUARDA"). PEDRO CESAR IZQUIEL WAS NOT ONE OF THOSE INDICTED, THOUGH THE COURT DID SAY IT WAS INVESTIGATING ALL FORMER OFFICERS OF THE IVSS.

4. COMMENT: IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS IS AN ACTION BY THE FBL (IF THE FBL EVEN EXISTS -- FORMER PRESIDENT JAIME LUSINCHI, WHO APPEARED AT THE CLINIC TO VISIT A FRIEND SHORTLY AFTER THE ATTACK, FOR ONE DOES NOT BELIEVE IT DOES), AN ACT OF VENGEANCE OR A COMMON

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CRIMINAL ACT.

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